

(12) **United States Patent**
Niemela

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(54) **TREE CLIMBING SUPPORT**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A63B 27/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **A63B 27/00** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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USPC 182/90, 92, 151, 153
See application file for complete search history.

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Exhibit A includes photos of various “climbing sticks,” at least three of which (“Ameristep”, “Muddy Outdoors,” and “Gorilla”) are believed to have been on sale more than one year prior to the filing date of this application.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A climbing support is provided for aiding a climber in scaling a tree, a wooden pole, or like surface. In one embodiment, the climbing support is configured for one-handed use, so that the support can be initially driven into a tree and then tightened against the tree with one hand. The climbing support includes a step body that supports a threaded fastener and an anti-rotation projection or spike, which together can be used to initially support the step as the climber drives the fastener to secure the step along the tree. Optionally, the climbing support includes an elongate body with a plurality of step members and at least one fastener disposed along the body. The climbing support may further include a pivotable spike for engaging the tree or pole, the spike being lockable in an angled position to enable it to support a portion of a user’s weight.

17 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets

